

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please insert an Abstract of the Disclosure which appears on a separate sheet in the Appendix.

Page 1, before line 3, insert the following:

--CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION

This is the 35 USC 371 national stage of International Application PCT/NL00/00200 filed on March 24, 2000, which designated the United States of America.

FIELD OF THE INVENTION--

Page 1, line 3, cancel the heading "INTRODUCTION".

Page 1, line 12, replace the heading "PRIOR ART" with

--BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION--

Page 5, line 26, replace the heading "FIGURES" with

--BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS--

Page 5, replace the paragraph beginning on line 29 with the following amended paragraph:

--Figure 1a illustrates a first ~~principle~~ embodiment of a semi-continuous or batch operated device for performing the method according to the invention.--

Page 5, replace the paragraph beginning on line 31 with the following amended paragraph:

--Figure 1b illustrates a second ~~principle~~ embodiment of a device for performing the method according to the invention in continuous flow.--

Page 6, line 4, replace the heading "DETAIL DESCRIPTION" with --DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION--

Page 6, replace the paragraph beginning on line 5 with the following amended paragraph:

--The apparatus in figure 1a comprises two electrically conducting plates, 10 and 12, which together form a capacitor configuration. Both plates are connected through the respective wires 18 and 20 to ~~[[a]]~~ an electrical power source 22. Between the plates a packed product 14 is positioned. Typically, the packaging material is made out of electrical insulating material e.g. plastic, glass or carton which contains the product to be treated.--

Page 6, replace the paragraph beginning on line 11 with the following amended paragraph:

--The apparatus in figure 1b comprises two electrically conducting plates, 30 and 32, which configure a capacitor configuration. Both plates are connected through the respective wires 38 and 40 to ~~[[a]]~~ an electrical power source 42. Between the plates a conduit 34 is installed through which the product is

treated in continuous flow. Typically, the conduit is made out of electrical insulating material. This conduit is part of the treatment device.--

Page 6, replace the paragraph beginning on line 17 with the following amended paragraph:

--In figure 1a a product is positioned between the plates 10, 12. The product may for instance be transported and loaded in the device by a ~~conveyer~~ conveyor belt 17. In figure 1b there is contact between the plates 30, 32 and the conduit 34. The conduit is part of the device. It is supposed that this conduit is made of electrically insulating material. For treating the product 16 respectively 36 the source 22 respectively 42 provides high voltage pulses with a properly defined rise time and peak voltage. An example of a suitable pulse cycle is illustrated in figure 2a. The illustrated pulses are characterised by a rising edge 52, a short section 54 at maximum voltage level and a trailing edge 56.--